Levy on Dairy Industry

5651. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to impose a milk powder levy on the organised dairy industry in the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what will be the percentage of enhancement of liquid milk availability as a result of this step?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) Government has not taken any decision to impose a levy on milk powder. However, the need for making interventions such as restrictions on the production of milk products and imposition of levy on milk fat and skimmed milk powder in order to maintain or increase the supply of liquid milk is reviewed from time to time.

Decelerating trends in Capital Formation

5652. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to arrest the de-celerating trends in capital formation in agriculture;

(b) whether resource allocation regime in the agriculture sector will be reviewed; and

(c) if so, by when and in what manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE* MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) In order to arrest the decelerating trends in capital formation in agriculture, various steps have been taken by the Government. Some of the major steps taken in this regard include higher public sector outlays for agriculture & allied activities, focus on greater public sectror investments, substantial increase in farm credit, increase in minimum support price of agricultural commodities as also reduction in contro!? on domestic and foreign trade in agriculture, etc.

(b) and (c) The Draft Agriculture Policy Resolution (APR) formulated by the Government seeks to review resource allocation in the agriculture sector with a view to re-chsmjclising available resources from current support measures towards capital formation and infrastructure building. It aims at creating a favourable economic climate for increasing farmers' own investments and efforts through a favourable price and trade regime.

Decline in the Share of Foodgrains

5653. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the share of foodgrains piaduction in the total gross cropped areas has consistently declined;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the foodgrain production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The share of foodgrains in the total gross cropped area in the country has declined marginally over the years. This may be attributed to marginal diversion of area from coarse cereals to oilseeds and increase in foodgrains production through vertical expansion.

(c) For increasing the productivity and production of foodgrains, crop oriented production programme namely Integrated Cereal Development Programme—Rice, Wheat and Coarse cereals; and National

Pulses Development Programme are being implemented. Besides, programme for increasing the use of fertilizer in low consumption areas and extension of irrigation facilities are being implemented to improve the production of crops.

Organic Fertilisers used in Agriculture

5654. SHRI CHAMANBHAI MEH-TA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of organic fertilizers in total quantum of fertilizers used in agriculture;

(b) whether it is possible to augment the supply of organic manure;

(c) if so, how; and

(d) whether Government have formulated any scheme in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) As per reports received from the State Governments, it is estimated that about 273 million tonnes of Rural Compost and 6.5 million tonnes of Urban compost is used in the country. The consumption of chemical fertilisers during 1994-95 is estimated about 13.83 million tonnes. Because of different origin/nature of organic and chemical fertilisers, it is difficult exactly to quantify the percentage use.

(b) to (d) To augment the production and use of organic manure, green manure seed and bio-fertilisers, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing the following scheme:—

i) Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilisers;

ii) National Project on Development of* Fertiliser Use in Low Consumption and Rainfed Areas.

iii) National Project on Development and Use of Bio-Fertilisers.

Water Scarcity in Marathwada, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh

5655. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: SHRI SATCHIDA NANDA: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that around 5000 villages and 1,000 wadis in Marathwada region and vast tracts of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh have lately been suffering from acute water scarcity and drought situation;

(b) if so, the details of the areas so affected; and

(c) the Central aid if any sought and given for drought relief measures State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) According to information received from the Government of Maharashtra 4,499 Villages and 1,155 wadis in the State are facing shortage of water. The State Government has declared drought in 2,596 Kharif villages and 1,001 rabi villages in the Marathwada region during the current year. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported acute drought conditions in 12 tchsils of 6 districts and drinking water problem in 7,832 villages and 291 towns. The Government of Gujarat have not declared drought conditions in any part of the State.

(c) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has sought additional financial assistance of Rs. 65.00 crores for drought relief measures. The Government of India have released the first quarterly instalment of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund amounting to Rs. 9.04 crores and Rs. 12.07 crores to Madhya Pradesh